



Cornell University
ILR School

ILR Memory Book Series

From time to time, on-line memory books are made available on the web site of Cornell University's ILR School as a way for past students, colleagues, and friends to post their recollections of faculty and distinguished staff members.

This series collects the comments left by visitors to these memory books.

Jennie Farley

From Cornell News, June 24, 2002

Jennie Tiffany Towle Farley, a champion of women's rights and Cornell University professor of industrial and labor relations, co-founder of Cornell's Women's Studies Program and a former member of the university's Board of Trustees, died June 19 in Hudson, N.Y., after a long illness. She was 69.

Farley is widely known for her work on advancing the status of women workers -- especially managers, academic women and clerical women -- as well as for her work on affirmative action, sexual discrimination and sexual harassment. She was a consultant on women's issues to many organizations, including several in Spain, Saudi Arabia and Brazil.



"Jennie was truly an amazing woman -- a tireless educator and scholar, a contributor to women's rights issues and a staunch community causes volunteer. This campus will miss her many contributions, as well as her cheery presence," said Susanne Bruyère, director of the Cornell Program on Employment and Disability in the Extension Division of the School of Industrial and Labor Relations.

The following submissions were made by visitors to the memory book from August 12, 2002 to November 2, 2005.

Affirmation, potential, capacity, quality, grace and beauty are the words that come to mind each time I reflect upon my experiences with Jennie. These are the qualities she brought forth in people just by being around. Jennie is one of the rare folk who walked comfortably within her own skin - perhaps because she so authentically shared and lived by her soul. The wonder of Jennie has always been, and will always be, her gentle essence. It continues for me to be a source of strength and influence. It is women like Jennie who pave the way for women like me. ..and we are so blessed. And then, of course, the beanie babies....

- Carol Blessing, Poestenkill, NY Aug 12 2002

Jennie was such an outstanding, caring person. She would always take time to stop and talk with everyone. She especially loved to talk about her family and her travels. Jennie always made me feel like I was a special person because she really cared about and was interested in what I was saying. Never to rush you so she could go on. I will miss seeing and talking with Jennie around ILR. My thoughts and prayers are with her family.

- Colleen Clauson, Alpine, NY Aug 12 2002

I met Jennie through her husband, Don, who was my advisor during grad school. I always looked forward to encountering Jennie because she was so full of wit and general good humor. I remember her speaking, telling jokes, bending forward to clutch my arm while chortling about something or other, but I would remember afterwards that Jennie was a fine and earnest listener, too. Jennie heard, remembered, and valued what was going on around her, even the drivel that a 25 year old space scientist might spout. My lingering image of Jennie: her eyes crinkling with delight, shortly followed by a great guffaw.

- John D. Sabr, Seattle WA Aug 12 2002

As a staff member of ILR-Extension's Program on Employment and Disability (PED), I got to know Jennie over the last three years through hallway and coffee break conversations. I could always count on Jennie to bring cheer and thoughtfulness into the most cloudy of Ithaca days. The staff of the PED cherished their friendship with Jennie. A few years back I was Jennie's "Secret Santa." She was a lot of fun to shop for, but what I remember most was my desire to pick out just the right thing to give her ... a practical yet beautiful gift ... actually it strikes me as I write this note that these five words ... a practical yet beautiful gift ... describe what Jennie was to this world and what she continues to be to every one she met and through her impact on family, friends, colleagues, and students! Wow ... I miss her!

- Andrew, Ithaca, NY Aug 12 2002

Don offered me a position in CRSR and thus allowed me to get a Master's degree from Cornell. Don was also on my advisory committee. I never met Jennie, but I heard only good things about her from others. Has a charitable fund been set up or a charity designated to which contributions may be made in Jennie's name? Again, my condolences to Don and his family. Allan Steinfeld EE'71 now New York City Marathon

- Allan Steinfeld, New York City Aug 12 2002

We met Jennie and Don during a memorable trip to Turkey in 2000. Both Jennie's (and Don's) gentle personalities did not hide from us for a second the depth of their intellect, humour and a caring for a world much larger than many envisage. We have treasured memories of our travels with them and feel enriched just by our time spent with them. Our deepest sympathies to Don and the family.

- Sue and Graham Utber & Jean Verwey, Melbourne, Australia Aug 12 2002

So many memories...Among other things, Jennie and I shared an enthusiasm for shoes and were constantly on the lookout for fashionable, yet comfortable shoes that would survive Ithaca's rigorous geography. Jennie and I worked together on various committees in the Ithaca Branch of AAUW, coming together as co-presidents in 1998. What a delightful experience that was! After some years of knowing Jennie in her capacity as an exemplary volunteer and women's advocate, I asked Jennie to be on my master's thesis committee as I prepared for my thesis research. She inspired me to write about the extraordinary women in the College of Home Economics at Cornell, where I had served as Director of Alumni Relations in the college's current incarnation as the College of Human Ecology. As I moved on toward the completion of my doctoral dissertation, she remained on my committee; a continuing inspiration, urging me on when my energy and enthusiasm flagged. My dissertation is almost finished and I sense her presence as I struggle toward the finish line. My work on the deans of women is dedicated to you, Jennie! "Thank you" is not enough. P.S. I picture you and Alice Cook raising the consciousness of Heaven. You go, Jennie!

- Lynne Byall Benson, Boston, MA Aug 13 2002

I had the distinct privilege of serving with Jennie for a number of years on the Alumni Board of Trustees of Delta Chi Fraternity at Cornell. She and her husband Don, also a Board member, had met at the Delta Chi house as undergraduates, and Jennie subsequently became the only woman to serve as alumni president of a fraternity (all male) at Cornell. What a gift she had in that capacity! When the Board would occasionally have to deal with a less-than-pleasant situation involving fraternity undergraduates, Jennie was always able to handle things in a gentle, "grandmotherly" way-- far more effectively than the more ham-handed approach of the other, perhaps crustier Board members, myself included. The young men in question invariably felt terrible and quite guilty for letting their nice Professor Farley down and tried much harder to compensate as a result. I learned a lot from this approach. What a kind, dear, special woman! I know I speak for the entire fraternity when I say that I miss her terribly.

- Phil Miller, Ithaca, NY Aug 13 2002

Jennie was graduated from Scotch Plains (NJ) High School in 1950. As a member of that class, I have been passing along Don's messages during the past year to about 25 classmates. It is our great fortune that Jennie and Don attended our 50th class reunion two years ago. Her presence there gave us a wonderful, happy image to remember. Given Jennie's outstanding academic career, it might surprise her colleagues to learn that the description under her yearbook picture includes the following, "She is undecided as to whether or not she will go to college." When I forwarded Don's e-mail of June 20, I received a number of touching replies. Dot Lee: "I will always think of her with twinkling eyes and a smile ready to appear." Mary Ellen Skove: "I didn't see much of her as an adult, but I will miss just realizing that she is no longer in Ithaca." Sylvia Haney: "The news really hit me hard as we have known each other since we were born. I'm so glad she came to the last reunion and I can remember her as she was then." Rose Marie McClary: "She was always someone I admired and looked up to, and I am sorry to hear that she is gone from us." Bob DeHart: "Lovely gal and a quality person. Her life serves as an inspiration to all who knew her." Bob Angle: "She was a ray of sunshine for sure." Tom Thomas: "She was such a bright light that I trust she shines on in whatever is over that threshold." For those who don't know, Jennie's middle name is "Tiffany". We who grew up with her realized many years ago how extremely appropriate that is.

- Bill Andrews, Bridgewater, NJ Aug 13 2002

It isn't often that you meet a person like Jennie! A person who motivated you to be the best you could be--who shared of herself over and over again. Who simply stated cared about people and the welfare of women especially. What an amazing woman she was--I can't believe she is gone. I will never forget her spirit. When I think of ILR I will always think of Jennie--it just won't be the same without her. May the memory of her work live on forever!

- Regina Wharton, Ithaca, New York Aug 14 2002

I am a support staff person and did not know Jennie. But when I was looking for some minor technical information she volunteered it readily and kept in touch. When she dropped by in New York she made a point of seeing me and inquiring about the results as if it was just as important as if the president or a faculty member had asked for it. I could never forget that. It was so different from many other higher ups. One of those important "drops in the bucket" that counts millions. I am really sorry she passed. The story of her sickness and her courage is staying with us.

- M.M.E., New York Aug 15 2002

Jennie Farley was an amazing soul. I have never met such a hip, down to earth, female sage. It was a blessing everyday that Jennie was around and she will continue to bless us with her memories forever. I enjoyed every chance I had to lend her a hand on the computer or to simply be in her presence. For every act of kindness Jennie received, she in turn gave ten times to others. That is just what Jennie was about, "random acts of kindness". Much love to her family.

- Alexis Cefaratti, Dryden, NY Aug 16 2002

Jennie and I worked together as the only two consistent faculty members of the CARE (Cornell Advocates for Rape Education) committee at Cornell. She was a member of CARE for many years, and served in that capacity until she became ill. She was highly aware of the important social concerns of the students, and always willing to help do whatever was necessary to make Cornell a safer place for all members of the campus community. She was a caring, wise, funny, delightful person who engendered happiness in all around her. We will miss her greatly at CARE. Cornell was a much richer place because of Jennie.

- Andrea Parrot, Ithaca, NY Aug 18 2002

It is very hard to believe that Jennie will not be there - at conferences, PCCW meetings, and a myriad of informal sessions where the topic of human relations was paramount. Jennie's special focus on the condition and careers of women was, I think, an outgrowth of her love of all people. Maybe, just as she was a sister, aunt, or mother to us all, she believed that women had a unique mission that needed to be extended beyond the home and into the work place.

- Murem Sharpe '70, Sarasota, FL Aug 18 2002

I met Jennie at an Office Professional course more than 10 years ago. I think she was actually instrumental in starting the program. On the first day she talked to us about her life and what it was like for her to go off to college. I'll never forget her stories and how important she made us all feel. She helped instill a sense of learning and improving... Later I would see her in "noontime" aerobics, or walking around campus. Though I didn't know her that well, she would always say hello and have some kind words to say with that wonderful smile and twinkle in her eyes. I loved the tribute they had for her at the 2002 Office Professional Annual Meeting. So amazing for one person to have such a positive impact on so many people...

- Marilyn Vogel, Trumansburg, NY Aug 19 2002

It is hard to even describe the kind of person that Jennie was because there are so few as genuine and true as she. Anyone who was lucky enough to have Jennie touch their life can consider themselves truly blessed. She is without a doubt one of the most giving and unselfish people I have ever met. I didn't know Jennie for long before she became ill but I know she absolutely adored her family and she loved her work. I was a part of the Office Professionals Symposium Planning Committee with Jennie and she was so passionate about the meaning of the day and how important it is for Office Professionals. There will never be anyone like Jennie. Everytime I walk by her office I think of how much I miss her and her sunny personality.

- Michele Cowen, Dryden, NY Aug 19 2002

Jennie was one of the best people on this earth to see when you were having a bad day. Her gentle smile and sly wit made everyone feel better about things, what ever the situation. She was a joy to talk to on any day. Her wisdom, intellect, and wicked sense of humor made her one of my favorite people at ILR. She treated everyone the same, giving us all the full benefit of her wonderful personality. And what a smile! We are all better people for knowing Jennie. She will be sorely missed by all.

- *dsl, Lansing Aug 20 2002*

I know that Jennie will be celebrated and remembered by countless numbers of people who loved her and were touched by her. I'm honored to be counted among those people. I believe that Jennie, too, can be celebrated by the love she gave to others in so many ways. A few years ago, Jennie and I decided to share our lunch time by walking for exercise. While exercising legs and lungs, we exercised our chatting talents as well while rounding the track at Barton Hall or Schoellkopf. I learned from these conversations some of the people and things that Jennie loved and I think it reflects something of who she was and how much she gave to others. She loved her parents and siblings dearly and recalled stories about them often; she loved her husband, children, and her beloved grandchildren and spoke fondly of them always; she loved shopping (especially for the above-mentioned grandchildren and especially for Beanie-babies); she loved her work and embraced it wholeheartedly; she loved Cornell University and recalled its history and traditions to me often; she loved students and treated them universally with kindness and courtesy; she loved her colleagues and always remembered and respected their work; she loved working people (especially women workers) and had a mission to help them improve themselves and be recognized for their contributions; and although my list is certainly not complete, I would finally say that she loved each day. Each morning she would arrive with a happy greeting for everyone she saw; usually "Well, here we are" as if to say, "Let's get to it and enjoy the doing" and every lunch time after our walk, she would say, "Thank you for your company". Thank you for your company, Jennie - God Bless

- *Sharon VanCampen, Ovid, NY Aug 20 2002*

I didn't know Jennie but I am deeply saddened to hear that she passed on. I prayed for her recovery. Sometimes we can't explain these things but it helps to know that Jennie is in heaven watching over everyone she loved.

- *Vanessa Figueroa, New York City Aug 21 2002*

Whenever I think of Jennie, I'm reminded of all the many times we exercised together in Nancy Cool's class at Teagle Hall, in a very hot wrestling room. She always came with lots of giggles and excitement, ready to "jump around like crazy people". (Her quote) After exercising, we would return to the locker room to shower and get ready to go back to work and she would ALWAYS take the time to visit with anyone regarding their future, whether it be at Cornell or elsewhere, and give advice on how to advance. She used to say with a big smile, "my door is always open". Jennie will be missed by many, she was truly a very special person...

- *Linda Hill, Ithaca, NY Aug 21 2002*

When I first met Jennie, it was in 1974 as she enthusiastically introduced the different presenters during the Women's Studies lunch bag seminars. Her forthcoming and encouragement for me to make my first presentation about Muslim women was a landmark in my career, as was her interest in women's studies and feminist research and activism, particularly with Muslim women. I had many other firsts with Jennie, but the best memory I have of her is her big smile and generous greetings. I am sorry to miss her special memorial service. As I will be out of the country for another research endeavor, however, I know that she would not mind!

- *Nimat Hafez Barazangi, Ithaca, NY Aug 22 2002*

"Each friend represents a world in us, a world possibly not born until they arrive, and it is only by this meeting that a new world is born." - Anais Nin. I met Jennie in 1998 when I arrived at Cornell. I knew of Jennie before I met her. I knew that she helped start the Women's Studies program long before most other universities would even consider it. I knew that the students loved her. And, I knew that she was a staunch advocate for women's rights, labor rights, diversity, and education. But when I met Jennie I was amazed that she was the woman I had been hearing about. How could this gracious, kind woman with the big smile, blue velvet shoes, determined walk, little notepad, and passion for beanie babies be the activist that paved the way for me, and for hundreds of other women, at Cornell? From the beginning, Jennie was my mentor. She took me to lunch shortly after I arrived and shared with me her advice. "Don't work evenings or weekends," she said with her throaty laugh-a word of advice I don't think she herself ever listened to! She was always on the other end of the phone to give me advice and at every student meeting to help support the Women's Resource Center. I learned a lot from Jennie's approach and tenacity. She was in it for the long haul and taught me that all good things were worth the wait and the struggle. I will miss her.

- *Candace Rypisi, Pasadena, CA Aug 24 2002*

Since our first meeting in Norway in 1962 our paths have crossed a great many times, not so much professionally as personally. Whenever meeting Jennie her smile and cheerful humor always seemed like a ray of sunlight. I shall sorely miss our chance encounters.

- *Tor Hagfors, Goettingen, Germany Aug 26 2002*

I knew Jennie from the time I was a young girl growing up with her daughter, Anne. Jennie was always a positive presence in my life. She never failed to give me the sense that I was special and wonderful and could do all kinds of things, messages I wasn't getting elsewhere. She radiated positive energy and fun and had a wonderful sense of whimsy. I remember the Farley's had gerbils in an elaborate system of plastic tubes that seemed to take up half the enormous room they were in! That never would have happened at my house. I was green with envy. The Farley's always had the best afterschool snacks too. They may not have been home-baked cookies, but they were exactly what the kids wanted to eat. I always loved going over to Anne's house. It just radiated positive energy and freedom. Aside from all the fun, Jennie was a real role model. She believed that women could have it all and I grew up with that impression indelibly imprinted in my mind. As it turns out, I didn't want it all. I'm a full-time mother. But I never felt any discomfort with Jennie about my choice. After all, the whole point of her work was to create options for women so we could choose. The world has lost an amazing woman but her energy and accomplishments live on in the individuals and institutions she touched. My condolences to her family. I hope something that I wrote can be of some comfort to you. Lots of love, Jane

- Jane, Arlington, VA Aug 26 2002

I had only one occasion to see and talk to Jennie when she and Don visited the Polar Geophysical Institute in Murmansk, Russia's over the polar circle port. She was the first American woman I ever talked to. Over the years, as my family and I moved to Canada, I met here in North America many people who were quite different in their manners and ways of talking from Russians but she still stays in front of my eyes distinctly different - smiling, kind, very open and simple, full of interest in all aspects of human's life. I remember her jokes and her patience in trying to understand what my wife, barely speaking English, was trying to say to her and Jennie's quick "translation" of the meaning, not so much literally by words but by heart. Jennie's sparkling light of great spirit will always stay with me.

- Sasha Koustov, Saskatoon, Canada Aug 26 2002

It's a beautiful spring day when everyone except Jennie is thinking about their summer plans. Her mind is elsewhere. She is on The Commons hunting high and low for that perfect Christmas gift that will make a friend or family member smile. Her face lights up because she has just spotted something special. You can see the wheels turning in her head as she goes through her final mental checklist to make sure that this will make someone happy. If she could have, she would have given a special gift to all her friends every day. When I look back at her life, I think she did. When I think of my mother, I think of Christmas. She was such a giving person and Christmas was her favorite time of year. As the temperature dropped and the sun started its long winter nap, mom would not get depressed - far from it. She would shift into a higher, even happier gear and savor every day before the magical 25th of December. Her pace would quicken as she made plans for the big day. She was happiest when others were happy and I think that day meant a lot to her because that day is reserved for peace and joy. Mom was happiest when she was helping a friend, colleague or student. There was never a clock on the wall when it came to spending time with someone who needed some advice or just wanted to talk. When I was little I would

occasionally meet my mother at the “half way marker” between our house and Cornell at 7, 8 or 9 o’clock at night. She would call home and say “meet you half way” and I would then proceed to calculate in my mind how long it would take for her to walk out of Ives and make her way across the bridge towards our house. When you’re 10 or 11 years old, you don’t think about why mom is not home for dinner, you just want to see mom. I remember it as if it was yesterday. I can see her trudging through the snow and then waving happily as she sees me. A big smile would spread across her face and she would give me a big hug as I ran into her arms. It took years for me to realize that she could have come home earlier, but she loved her work and loved helping and giving to others. Mom did not spend the last 14 months of her life as a bitter person, complaining about her daily hellish routine. She did just the opposite. She beamed a bright smile at everyone who came into her room. It didn’t matter how bad the situation or how painful the procedure, mom would smile to try to make others more comfortable. She could not move or speak, but she never stopped giving with her smile and warmth. She touched everyone who saw her and she touches me every day. We have lost an angel, but the gates of heaven have opened for someone very special. When I think of mom, I think of Christmas. I love you mom and miss you more than words can say. Peter

- Peter Farley, Ithaca Aug 27 2002

Jennie was a role model for me as a woman faculty member at Cornell. I first met her when I was a Postdoctoral Associate, perhaps through the Provost’s Advisory Council on Women or one of its committees. During this time I took a position as a faculty member with extension as part of my responsibility and I remember talking with Jennie about what it was like to do extension outreach. She loved it. We were in different fields, but I ran into her on faculty committees throughout the years. We had a great time taking the midday aerobics course with Nancy Cool for quite a few years, and we were all very worried when we heard about the aneurysm and were delighted to see her back. The year before last I was so pleased that we were both on the University Faculty Nominating Committee. She knew so many people at Cornell and had a wonderful way of helping us find the right person for the right committee. She often thought of new and interesting people who had not yet had the opportunity of being involved in faculty governance. When Jennie asked them to do it, they usually did. She always asked about my daughters although she did not know them. She just knew me as another faculty member, but she showed that she cared about my life as an academic and a mother and was a friend from our shared experiences. I will miss her very much.

- Ann Lemley, Ithaca, NY Aug 29 2002

Jennie was my freshman orientation class professor and was so incredibly kind and welcoming. She immediately offered any help that she could give and was always friendly and had time to talk. I will miss seeing her. My deepest sympathy.

- ems, ithaca Aug 30 2002

I knew and worked for Jennie for two years as one of her teaching assistants. In my experience, no co-worker proved as unfailing when work piled high and my desire to do it fell low. No manager was as encouraging, flexible, and supportive. No teacher cared more for her students' safety, growth, and joyful experience at school. No alumni and faculty member had greater regard for their school. No friend gave safer harbor for confidences, a warmer ear for stories, or as much unconditional affection. No heart understood and believed the simple truths of our existence, especially the power of genuine understanding and love. No person had as consistently positive an influence on those they knew. No smile convinced as thoroughly of the divinity of human nature and the possibility of overcoming all that is petty, malicious, and hateful in it. Jennie was a very, very fine woman and I am one of many who count themselves blessed for having known her.

- *Jeff Falkner, Washington Aug 30 2002*

I'll always remember the kindnesses. When my family first moved to Ithaca, I met Jennie and explained that my wife had just finished graduate school and was looking for a job. She asked me to have Dorene give her a call. They had lunch, which did not magically create employment. However, Dorene left that meal with a sense that she could be successful in a new town. I have to appreciate how Jennie understood people, especially women. She made every attempt to provide this warm support, that was encouraging without detracting from a person's dignity. I'll miss poking my head in her office, and seeing her smile, pleased to see me, telling me what a great man I am for knowing how to make cabbage salad. No one tells me that.

- *David Brewer, New Hartford, NY Aug 31 2002*

It is a privilege to be a member of the sister-and-brotherhood of people who admired and loved Jennie Farley. Jennie gave so much to so many of us that she lives still, though she is physically absent. What Jennie demonstrated to all of us time and again was her ability to see a need and act on it, even when such an action boded personal danger for her. (I refer particularly for her role as coordinator and rapporteur for the "Cornell 11".) Jennie was a woman of great integrity, great warmth, extraordinary patience, and the kindness to listen carefully and report faithfully what others said. We will miss her!

- *Fran Herman, Ithaca, NY Sep 2 2002*

The first time I met Jennie Farley was during the formation of the ACSW - Advisory Committee on the Status of Women - in the mid 1980's. I was an employee of the Office of Equal Opportunity at the time. I was in total awe of the woman - Jennie Farley - all that she stood for, believed in, accomplished, etc. She was my hero and she didn't even know it! Years later, as an ILR employee degree student, I had the privilege of being one of Jennie's students in her "Women at Work" class. As a non-traditional student, I had a lot of experience to share with the class. It was during this time, my hero became my mentor, cheerleader and friend. Whenever I saw her, she always asked about my boys, work and how I was progressing towards my degree. She continually gave me encouragement to reach my goals and not to sell myself short by giving up. Eventually, I had the honor of taking other classes and doing an

independent study with Jennie. I will always remember her bright smile, wonderful words of praise and encouragement. Most of all, I will always treasure the little piece of herself that she gave me during my senior year, a pin that says, "Failure is Impossible"!! With Jennie in your corner, failure was impossible! I still have the pin on my book bag and will carry it with me forever! Jennie will be sorely missed by the Cornell community and alumni. She was one great lady!! God is lucky to have her on his team!

- Pam Denmark, ILR '00, Horseheads, NY Sep 3 2002

I will always remember Jennie as my great friend and mentor. When I was feeling down in mind or body she was always there to lift me up. When I was scared to try something new she was there to help me through it. She still is; I have heard her speaking to me throughout her illness and I still hear her speaking to me today. She will live on through all her good works (family, friends and Cornellians).

- Shelia Smith, Alpine, NY 14805 Sep 3 2002

Jennie Farley was my office mate for well over a decade on the First Floor of the School of Industrial and Labor Relations Extension Building on the Cornell University campus, where the ILR Program on Employment and Disability is housed. Interestingly, however, this workplace proximity nurtured more of a personal than professional relationship between us over time. We never wrote an article together, nor reviewed each other's manuscripts, nor co-taught a class. The basis of our incremental affinity was accrued during the time after conventional workday hours, in two offices that sat adjacent to each other. During the day our paths periodically crossed when we playfully challenged each other's place in the line at the copy machine or to access of the sole restroom on the First Floor. But the rapport we built over the years was rather acquired from the time spent after 5:00pm, staying those few extra hours to catch up on the day that had just ended and prepare for the next. It was then that we periodically stole from our work mission to sit and share our triumphs and tribulations of the day that had just passed, and about our personal perceptions and musings on life and family. It was in these hours, I came to know Jennie. And, what I learned was how passionately she cared about women's equity issues, the students whom she had stewardship of in her classes, her friends, and above all, her family. Whatever I know about women's issues, particularly the equity concerns of academic women, I in large part have taken from my conversations in these evenings with Jennie. She was outraged about gender equity injustices, and ecstatic about women's triumphs in professional arenas. She also was a passionate contributor both on our campus and in our community to these issues of women's equity and professional well-being, evidenced in her contributions to the Women's Studies Program, Committee on the Status of Women, and the Women's Community Building and Women's Information Network in Ithaca. She was equally as fervent about her teaching responsibilities, and many of these evening hours were spent in grading papers with significant care, to give students the benefit not only of a thoughtfully arrived upon grade, but more importantly generous feedback about their writing, so that they could improve upon their written self expression in their next opportunity. Another way her commitment for students was evidenced was in her willingness to write letters of recommendation for graduate school, law school, and medical school

for so very many students. Jennie would put great thought into each letter, and keep meticulous files on her response to each student's request. Indeed, her office housed several hundred such carefully detailed student recommendation files. Individually and collectively, they evidenced the care and concern with which Jennie approached her responsibilities to students as an educator, coach, and mentor. Jennie was also a most loyal friend. This was most obviously evidenced to me in her staunch devotion to Alice Cook, Professor Emeritus from the Cornell School of Industrial and Labor Relations. Jennie never ceased to applaud Alice's virtues as a scholar and contributor to women's rights globally, and she was ever ready to lend a hand when Alice might need one. Jennie regularly assisted with making sure that Alice was able to attend the many women's activities that Alice and Jennie both belonged to in the community, when Alice was not in a position any longer to drive for herself. The bulk of my evening conversations with Jennie, however, were neither around women's issues nor students and friends, but rather around our families. Jennie would take great delight in sharing stories about her children in their growing years past, as well as their current accomplishments, and of her grandchildren as they presently grew. She would equally share with relish about her treasured six years in Peru raising her three young children, as well as a recent phone call from one of her three cherished grandchildren. Jennie would speak with pride about a disciplinary recognition for Don, a new job for Peter, a marathon completed by Claire, or a doctoral degree pursuit by Anne, as well as a humorous or heart-warming incident from a recent Farley family vacation. Each story was told with her blue eyes twinkling and a broad beaming smile, symptomatic of a passionate delight in her family that ran miles deep. It was in these personal exchanges that I came to see that, as significant as her professional and community contributions have been, Jennie's family clearly and simply was where a great deal of her heartfelt passion in life lie. And, I appreciated this about her immensely. Another thing that I dearly appreciated about Jennie was her smile. We had many Thanksgiving, Christmas, birthday, and other celebratory events in the Program on Employment and Disability, which Jennie always graced not only with her presence, but some wonderful little gift, often for each of us. At these events we took many pictures, and Jennie always in each photo wore a characteristic beaming smile that very much made her stand out in any crowd. Even in her illness, her smile was as broad and beaming as it ever has been, just as depicted in every picture that we have of her. This mighty smile seemed illustrative of the enormous and shining Spirit within, too mighty to be diminished even in such significant physical illness. So, in closing I want to say to you, Jennie, that I will miss immensely being able to see that distinctive beaming smile, as well as the twinkling blue eyes, and hear your special personal laughter that sometimes accompanied it. I will miss having you poke your head in after 5:00pm to share your delighted stories about your children and grandchildren. I very much hope that your family knows how dearly you love them all. But I also feel confident that a Spirit so mighty as yours must certainly be enduring, and that you are ever amongst us, in ways we cannot know.

- *Susanne Bruyere, Ithaca, New York Sep 3 2002*

I am fortunate to have had such a wonderful aunt, Jennie, the younger sister of my mother, Mimi. The sisters had a close, enduring relationship, but I always knew from girlhood that my Aunt Jennie loved me dearly as well. She was genuinely interested in my happiness and success. Growing up in New York and New Jersey, I visited my grandparents' home in Fanwood, New Jersey, before Jennie grew up and moved out. Our family followed her success as a young writer. One day my mother shared with my siblings and me that Jennie had a special beau and planned to marry. I felt very privileged as a preteen to be in Jennie and Don's wedding. How excited she was! How beautiful she looked! In the 1990's when Jennie visited my mother here in Pleasanton, we went on a shopping adventure. She found a cozy sweatshirt that she bought in every color that was available. In honor of her, I did the same thing the other day. I gave in to the urge to buy a wonderful knit mock turtleneck sweater in four different colors! I deeply regret not having made the trip from California to Ithaca in recent years. Jennie said she genuinely enjoyed a recent visit with my brother Patrick and his family. Dear Jennie, you will always be a role model and inspiration to me.

- Sallie McCaffree Wisner, Pleasanton, California Sep 5 2002

My mother was a passionate person who lived her life fully. Here are some of my recollections about the things she loved and a much shorter list of the things she hated. My mother, as has been mentioned, loved to shop. She was absolutely tireless about it. In our family we had a phrase for what would happen to anyone who tried to keep up with her - we called it "shopper's fatigue" or simply "the fatigue." I don't think my mother herself ever experienced it but as soon as I would say, "Mom, I've got the fatigue," she'd say, "O.K., time for a Diet Coke." My mother loved adventure. She was an absolute optimist and eagerly embraced any offer of a new adventure. Years ago, when I lived in New York City, she came for a visit and, guidebooks in hand, she, my boyfriend (he's my husband now), and I explored Manhattan until we ended up at the Manhattan District Court in the wee hours of the morning watching the drama unfold in the "night court." My mother eagerly absorbed every minute of it even while I fell asleep on the bench next to her. My mother loved having complete sets of matching things, be they Beanie Babies, clothing, or table linens. She loved to set the table with matching placemats and dishes and napkins, etc. and then step back and say to herself, "That Jennie Farley sets such a nice table!" The pleasure she took in having a matched set extended even to us, her children. We recently looked at pictures from a three-week trek my family took around South America in the 1960s. We marveled at the fact that in every single picture, my brother and sister and I were dressed in identical clothing. We were a matched set -- three very large very blond children toddling through remote South American villages. My mother loved to read. She had a wide range of reading interests consuming, for example, the New Yorker and People Magazine with equal enthusiasm. My mother loved fresh cut flowers. As the people from "Flower Fashions" will attest, she bought herself a new arrangement every Saturday for many years. More than anything else, though, my mother loved to "connect" with people. She had a deep interest in how other people experience the world and wherever her adventures took her, it was the people she encountered that meant the most to her. For instance on some of the vacations we took in recent years, while the rest of us were out swimming in the ocean, my mother was likely to be taking the time to get to know the woman who came

to clean the rooms - learning about her family and her joys and sorrows so that, by the end of the week, there would be a tearful goodbye between the two. There were a few things that my happy and energetic mother did not like. She hated to cook, for example. I remember how happy she was when McDonald's opened a franchise on North Tripphammer Road. I also remember that for a few years, the proprietor of Louie's Lunch Wagon seemed to know our family's dinner order by heart. My mother also hated to buy groceries. The cashiers at (what used to be) the Super Duper near our house used to tease her about being the fastest shopper they had ever seen. She would race down the aisles throwing in things until the dreadful job was done. She used to joke that she was an advertiser's dream -- the brighter the packaging, the more likely she was to toss it in the cart. My mother hated to miss out on anything. She was always the first one up and the last one to bed. Even when she was so exhausted she was falling asleep on the couch, she would refuse to go to bed, insisting she was still following the conversation. Most of all, my mother hated goodbyes of any kind. I remember her crying each and every time she said goodbye after a visit with her own mother and father. I also remember that as we became adults, there were tears after every visit we had together. Above all, though, my mother hated to be separated from my father for even one night. I believe this was why she hung on for so long despite the pain and the grim prognosis of her illness. My mother fought bravely and fiercely against this last and most profound goodbye. She really didn't want to have to say goodbye to any of us - the people she loved.

- Anne Farley Cremer, Iowa City, Iowa Sep 5 2002

THE ESSENCE OF JENNIE: Jennie was a gentle spirit. The beauty of her soul caressed all who knew her. Kindness emanated from her radiant eyes. Jennie gave her heart to all: Family, Friends, Co-workers, Students, Women in Need, Mankind. Jennie was one of those rare people who had enough heart to go around. She campaigned not only for the rights of women but for every living being. And campaigned she did in a positive way that was the essence of Jennie. For thirty five years I was privileged to be her friend. I treasure the years that Jennie was in my life. Gloria J. Wharton

- Gloria J. Wharton, Ithaca, N. Y. Sep 5 2002

When I first started working at PED, I was a bit confused about who Jennie *was*. Who was that cool older woman with the long grey hair tied in a bun, who wore neat clothes, was Beanie Mad, and had the best catalogs I'd ever seen? She didn't work for PED, yet she was an essential part of us. She really was. Her presence in our office each day was a gift, and I treasure the time I knew her. Her smiling face greeted us each day, she became a part of our lives and we became a part of hers. Jennie had space and time in her life for everyone, and shared of herself, her knowledge, and her spirit. I fondly remember how, when I was expecting my first child and everyone around me was full of horror stories about labor and delivery, she was a calming and funny voice as she told some of her own stories ("and I never even had time to take off my coat!"). We talked about the stages of a woman's life, about family and work and reconciling the two (something that she did very well, I gather), and she was a wonderful support. My son is two, and treasures the beanie baby bear that she gave him after he was born. We could talk about something as deep as the meaning of a book we'd both read -- or as quick as the meaning of the

right word for a certain sentence. Where I come from there's a phrase we use: "They're Good People." It doesn't mean good breeding or family (this is the midwest, after all), or even religion. It gets at so much that you can't say with *more* words. Jennie Farley was Good People.

- Sara VanLooy, Ithaca, NY Sep 6 2002

Jennie Farley was my mother. She told me I could call her anytime day or night; she made it clear that a call at 2:00 am was perfectly acceptable (I can't say my father agreed!) I consulted with my mother on all subjects almost daily. I interrupted her all the time. Her office number is forever etched in my memory. No matter how many papers she was frantically trying to grade, she took my calls. My mother taught me how to write. Without her help I never would have made it through Cornell. My mother was a very honorable person with high standards. She was very honest, even in the shortest long distance phone call. My mother taught me about prejudice and fairness. She taught me about generosity and benevolence. Throughout our travels, our parents exposed us to different cultures, different religions and ways of doing things. My mother taught me about acceptance. My mom was steadfast and determined. When she made up her mind, nothing would stop her. She had conviction. We had three dogs while I was growing up and she loved them all. One in particular, Jingles, adored her and followed her everywhere she went, from room to room. My mother gave generously to the SPCA and we adopted more than our fair share of cats! We had a very special dog, Mikey. He would make his way from our house to my mother's office at least a mile away. How he found his way to my mom's office we never figured out, since we had never taken him there. It was a mystery, but he was determined to get to my Mom and so he did. My mom was very proud of my two children, Jennie Towle Farley Wright and Christopher Towle Farley Wright, and she has supplied them with Beanie Babies to last a lifetime. During her illness, as long as she was able, Mom acknowledged, smiled and thanked everyone who came into her room, from visitors to the cleaners. She didn't miss anyone. I miss her more than words can possibly describe.

- Claire Farley Wright, Phoenix, AZ Sep 8 2002

Ms. Farley was an amazing lady and I feel privileged to have been in a class of hers. She always brought a great attitude to class, and she really helped make learning fun and enjoyable. I learned a lot on how to be a person from her, not to mention the knowledge that she imparted on me.

- Tung-Jim (Tony) Wu, Ithaca Sep 9 2002

Jennie was an extraordinary woman who had the gift of making each person she knew feel special. She was an excellent listener and with what seemed to be inexhaustible energy was fully engaged in supporting individuals or causes that needed her as a teacher, friend or colleague. Jennie cared and will be remembered as a passionate activist for justice and equality. She was an incurable optimist, courageous in the face of adversity, funny, and with a warm smile that could light up a room. Her heart embraced a family, of whom she was immensely proud, students and colleagues who benefited from her counsel, and legions of friends whose days were brightened by her loyalty and her love. We will remember her and be forever comforted by the place in our hearts marked JENNIE. Sadly, Joycelyn Hart

- Joycelyn Hart, Ithaca, NY Sep 11 2002

I feel privileged to have known and worked with Jennie for more than 25 years. I remember Jennie's many challenges for the development of the women's studies program on campus. When Jennie had a dream her dream became reality due to her determined perseverance. Whenever I asked her for assistance her advice was sincere and whole-heartedly given and I was always encouraged to reach out to a new and challenging endeavor. She absolutely loved doing for others, always unselfishly giving either physically or financially to ensure a special group could have a splendid event or program. I will always picture her walking along the Conference Center veranda, her head tilted slightly to the side with her warm and genuine grin on her beautiful face. Jennie loved life and we loved her and will miss her. We are selfish because we don't want to give up someone so special, but thankfully, her teachings and loving spirit will always be in our heart of memories.

- Ann Herson, Ithaca, NY Sep 12 2002

As I think back on the 70 years I have known Jennie, I remember growing up two houses from her and her parents, her sisters Nancy and Mimi, and her brother Van. Jennie and I spent almost all our time together, dressing up in her mother's old clothes, editing a one page neighborhood newspaper, tracking Van and his friends through the woods (we were spies), and having our own private club. We called each other "other 1/2" and that's the way it was for years. After graduation and college, etc. we spent less time together, but always remembered birthdays and sent letters and pictures at Christmas. That book is closed now, but I look forward to seeing her grin and getting a hug from my other half in the hereafter.

- Sylvia Leach Haney, Montoursville, PA Sep 12 2002

There are so many different ways in which I remember Jennie, and some are quite extraordinary. My wife and I had the privilege to travel with Jennie and Don to Cusco, Machu Picchu, and other places in Peru, and to Bali, and to Turkey. I remember pausing along a narrow trail leading from Machu Picchu, and leaning across the dinner table, to listen to another story that the scenery or previous conversation had led up to. The stories would always be told with a twinkle in her eye and often as not including a part where she would slowly wiggle her forefinger to emphasize something she was describing that had not been done quite right. But Jennie was also a great listener in hanging onto every word, making even a poor story teller feel something special. In the nearly 30 years that I knew Jennie, I cannot remember her with a frown. Friends like Jennie are few and far between.

- Wes Swartz, Ithaca, NY Sep 13 2002

Jennie Farley was my favorite professor at Cornell. She made me think, she made me proud of my mind, but most importantly she made me proud to be an intelligent woman. She was funny and eccentric and had a personality and style that was all her own...and I loved that. My sympathy to those who loved her, she was a gem.

- TEG, New York, NY Sep 13 2002

As a foreign student starting at the ILR School in 1974, I met Professor Farley and was amazed by her interest and immediate offer to help in any way she could to ease my transition from Central America to Ithaca, New York. As I got to know her better over the years I realized that she was a genuine caring person and a remarkable woman. Her passing will leave a void which will be very difficult to fill. My sympathy goes out to her family. All those who knew her will miss her.

- *Whitfield E. Tillet, Haslett, Michigan Sep 16 2002*

Jennie's office was one floor below mine in the ILR Extension building, so she walked past my door every day when she came in to work. She never failed to stop in with a cheery greeting, and often was loaded down with stuff she was carrying back and forth. So I already knew Jennie in this capacity when I signed up to take her writing course in the Spring semester just before she became ill. Needless to say the semester was memorable simply because of who Jennie was, but she added a bit more of herself to my personal experience of that class. Since I am both student and staff member, and work is my first priority, I have been known to forget to go to class. But Jennie was having none of this -- about ten minutes after the beginning of class on the two occasions that I did forget, the phone rang and the voice on the other end said "this is your conscience calling." Of course I then dropped what I was doing, gathered my books and ran red-faced to join the class. It was a very special and unique experience at Cornell, where students can easily get lost in the crowd. With Jennie I never felt like one of the crowd. She was special and she made me feel special. Thanks Jennie -- we miss you.

- *Anne Sieverding, Ithaca, New York Sep 18 2002*

Jennie was one of my favorite professors during my time at ILR. I also got to know her when I worked in the ILR Extension office. She had an endless reserve of kindness and was always available to talk, joke or just share personal experiences with. I thoroughly enjoyed the conversations we had and am honored to say that I knew her. Jennie was such a wonderful person with qualities that are rarely seen in today's world. She will be sorely missed but never forgotten.

- *Jenelle Berrien, Pittsburgh, PA Sep 19 2002*

Dear Don, and family, During the long months of Jennie's illness we have been admiring the enormous courage both of you displayed in fighting the unknown vicious attacker. We kept hoping with you that modern medicine would be able to come up with a diagnosis and a cure. Even though we felt helpless at her bedside, her lovely big smile warmed our hearts and encouraged us. Her sparkling eyes would do the speaking for her. We are now thinking back over the many interactions we have had with Jennie over the years. First of all, the wonderful New Year's Eve parties held at your festively decorated house. There always were many interesting people. Jennie would still find time to show her personal interest in each of them. Even though we often could not come, we were very grateful that we kept being invited. We also met Jennie on many other occasions. Some of these meetings were work-related, such as serving on the same committee or on the Faculty Senate. All of them were inspiring and enjoyable. One of the first times we met Jennie was at a track meet of the Finger Lakes Runners Club. Even though not a runner herself, she was a loyal supporter of the many others in your family that were. We are retaining the warmest memories of Jennie, and want to express our feelings of loss and sympathy to all of you. Joan and Tob de Boer.

- Joan and Tob de Boer, Ithaca, NY Sep 20 2002

Jennie Farley did a wonderful thing for me during my first year as a new (and anxious) professor at Cornell. She invited me to speak to her writing seminar on "being a minority," or something like that. I was a bit taken aback, since no one had ever asked me to talk about this before. Preparing the talk forced me to look deep inside myself. It was certainly the most personal and possibly the best talk I have ever given. Soon after, Jennie sent me a note to thank me and included very positive comments from her students. I have carried that note with me ever since. It is a reminder of what I am capable of when I seem to lose my way. And it is a testament to Jennie's unfailing generosity and her ability to teach even the teachers.

- Maria Cook, Ithaca, NY Sep 20 2002

I write first on behalf of the workers who gathered at the ILR Conference Center daily. We are union workers; primarily electricians, plumbers, and sheet metal workers. Jennie Farley greeted us each day with warmth, genuine interest, and good humor. We came to rely on her cheerful greeting each day, and enjoyed the lively discussions we shared with her. Jennie treated us with respect, and we returned that respect tenfold. We still sometimes expect Jennie to come through the door with a smile and a bright "Good Morning!" for everyone. We miss you, Jennie. Sincerely, Daryll Dunn, Dave Richardson, Mike Dunn, John Mount, Denny Johnson, Rich Anderson, Kyle Pettinga, (many others) and Kathy Luz Herrera. Now here's what Jennie meant to me personally. No one has ever reached out to me with such joy and persistence. It was Jennie Farley who suggested that I take classes at TC3, Jennie who encouraged me to take extramural classes at Cornell, and Jennie who offered to write me letters of reference for entrance into the ILR school. I sought Jennie's advice many times, and she never refused me her time. Then she would show me books she was considering for next semester's class, and ask my opinion of them! All the while she quietly groomed me for public life by inviting me to speak to her classes each semester. Any reluctance I may have felt was irrelevant, because after all, it was Jennie doing the asking! Even through my fear, I was grateful for the opportunity, and thrilled that she sent me thank you notes

each time. I saved every one. Funny how when Jennie did you a favor, she thanked you for it! Jennie made so many of us feel special. She made a difference in my life. Perhaps she personally invented the idea of “paying it forward”. Whenever I mentor someone, whenever I take time to let someone know they have made a difference to me, I do it in memory of Jennie. And in her honor. With love, Kathy Luz Herrera

- Kathy Luz Herrera, Ithaca, NY Sep 22 2002

Jennie Farley was a great inspiration to me. My first experience with Jennie was as my Professor at ILR. During that class she mentioned that she was teaching some writing classes for staff at Cornell. What I didn't realize at the time is that her connection with employees at Cornell would provide me an opportunity to work with her as a part of my job responsibilities when I started working at Cornell. This was such a wonderful gift; I got to know more about her as a person and she became a friend and mentor. It is hard for me to even write words to express how thankful I am that I got the chance to know her. She was such a humble person, I always learned about her great achievements from others. I am still learning about them. We had a common interest, the respect for Office Professionals. There is a quote that I first heard from Jennie: “No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.” This quote has come in handy for me personally and it has been useful to pass on to others. It is one of many things that she has given me. She will always have a special place in my heart.

- JoAnn Shepherd, Ithaca, NY Sep 23 2002

Jennie Farley was indeed an inspiration. She had a rare ability to connect to each and every student individually on many levels. Professor Farley was my writing teacher at ILR 15 years ago and I vividly remember her dedication and commitment to teaching; she gave it her all. I was touched by her gentle soul and wisdom. She will be missed very much.

- Brad Mehl, West Orange, NJ Sep 23 2002

I met Jennie while becoming an Office Professional. Jennie breathed life into every class she taught. She never just entered a room, she filled it with a bubbly warmth and a sparkling energy all her own. Jennie taught us how to embrace each new learning obstacle with joy, to have fun, even in situations we weren't always comfortable in - like group speaking. She gave so much of herself, to each OP class & the University. I feel blessed for the opportunity to work with, be challenged by and learn from Jennie. If I listen with my heart, I can hear her laughter across campus.

- Denise Howland, Ithaca, NY Sep 23 2002

I served with Jennie for some years on the former Task Force on Working Families. As a librarian, and part of that nether world of academic-non-faculty, I had little knowledge at the time of Jennie's academic work or reputation, but I loved from the first that aura she carried of cheerful sedition. I remember well those meetings when I had occasion to take some stand on one or another of the issues I cared about, and Jennie would invariably approach me afterwards to tell me how much she admired what I'd said and how forcefully I'd said it. Nobody but Jennie was ever so affirming of my intemperate outbursts! Passion and forceful belief were never an embarrassment in Jennie's world, as they often were in other venues. She had a way of making every individual feel that they were an integral part of the plan to change what still needed changing, and somehow she inspired us anew for the battle. Who could resist joining in and continuing with that shared effort, earning Jennie's continuing approval, and that wonderful, conspiratorial smile?

- Diane Hillmann, Jacksonville, NY Sep 24 2002

I want to thank Jennie's family for their support and involvement in the memorial service last night. It must have been difficult to have sore feelings roused up again, but I must say that it was a real comfort for me to be with so many other people who knew and loved Jennie. I hope it was a comfort to her family too. Jennie was one of the founding mothers of WIN (Women's Information Network), a program of the Women's Community Building. I met Jennie in the early 90s at a WIN meeting, and have been learning from her ever since. I am now the Chair of the Steering Committee for WIN, and I find myself often thinking, "What would Jennie say right now?" or "If Jennie were here, what would she do in this situation?" Of course, the first thing that comes to mind is her big beautiful smile, and I am comforted. She had such a way of getting her opinion across, yet always in a respectful and caring fashion. I wish I had half her wisdom and skill. Her warmth and compassion has seeped down into the middle of my heart and into my bones. Jennie continues to lead and inspire me each day. I miss her dearly.

- Diane Traina Paolangel, Ithaca, NY Sep 24 2002

Jennie Farley was my professor in 1994 while I was an undergrad at ILR. I always looked forward to her class because she somehow had the gift of making her lectures interesting and full of adventures. I remember she once told us a side story about a compliment she had received from her husband regarding her eyes being "as blue as the ocean". She had a faraway look in her eyes, and you knew she had transported herself back to that moment. She was sensitive, caring, and so full of life and spirit. I will miss her.

- Sonia (Malhotra) Cunningham, Mt. View, CA Sep 24 2002

Jennie Farley was a rare and special woman. As her advisee, colloquium participant, and “Women and Work” student, I can’t begin to describe the difference she has made in my life. Her experiences, enthusiasm and true convictions shall remain with me, as I am sure they will for others whose lives she has touched. Her demonstrated advocacy and sincere concern for women and workers has rekindled my faith that there are people who truly care for the well being of others. Her classes were not only informative, but also enjoyable, as her emotion and enthusiasm brightened every one. I will never forget: “Yessss, all right!” with a little grin and a ‘go get um’ arm gesture, that brought to life various successes of women workers throughout history. She has truly changed me and I will miss her.

- Chrissie Wais, Lafayette, NY Sep 26 2002

Jennie served on many committees at Cornell and I was lucky enough to get to work with her on some of them. If I didn’t encounter her at CARE (Cornell Advocates for Rape Education), we’d be together at the PSAC (Public Safety Advisory Committee). I was always delighted (and to some degree relieved) when I saw Jennie at the table. I knew the meeting would be energetic, that there would be laughter, serious discussion, practical solutions. I can see Jennie at those meetings; always sitting forward in her chair, never lounging back, but fully engaged in the discussion, asking questions, leaning in to share or hear what was being discussed head in her hand, or arms outstretched on the table. Jennie’s wit, inquisitiveness, affirmations and pure delight with the work made those meetings special. She taught me that work can be joyous, obstacles can be overcome and commitment is everything. I will miss her.

- Nina Cummings, Ithaca, NY Sep 27 2002

It is rare to find a professor with the zeal to look at each new group of students and find out what sort of class structure would benefit them the best, but that is exactly what Professor Farley did! I was blessed with the opportunity to have her as a writing professor, but that class gave me many more insights in addition to writing skills that have helped me along through the many guest speakers that Professor Farley was able to seek out for us. She really took the time to get to know each one of us, never hesitating to give praise and find out how she could enrich our experiences. The woman was and will always be an exemplar of incredible teaching and compassion, and I’m lucky to have had the chance to have met her.

- Sherri Sklar, Sacramento, CA Oct 3 2002

Professor Farley became my faculty advisor at the end of my junior year of college. It was the same semester I took my first course from her, *Women at Work*. It was one of those rare classes where you felt like you actually got to know the professor personally by the way and what she taught. Her stories of Cornell when she was a student and as young faculty were amazing and ones that I will always remember. She not only inspired us to do work for the class, but to also learn more about the history of Cornell and come to love the place where we went to school. She truly did. When I was a senior and deciding which direction to go after graduation, she was very supportive. Although, she gave the most support a year later, when I decided to leave law school for an internship with the NCAA. I asked her to write a recommendation for me when I visited her on one of my many trips back to Ithaca during that year and she couldn't be more excited for me. When she finished writing the recommendation, she even called my parents and read it aloud to them. (Which I'm certain helped to ease the blow to them that I was dropping out of law school for a very unsure route.) She was thrilled to hear that I had gotten the internship and actually invited me back to talk to one of her classes. Although we could never work out a date for me to come back to talk to one of her classes, I still have great memories of her enthusiasm and was always amazed by the amount of energy she had for her students, ILR and Cornell. She was one of a kind and I'm glad that so many of us got to be at the receiving end of her enthusiasm and sad that future ILR students will not benefit from that enthusiasm and the experience of her life. My heart and prayers go out to her family.

- *Tricia Turley '99, Boston, MA Oct 16 2002*

I am sorry to have not written sooner but relieved to find this site still running. I met Jennie when I was a young woman working in Ithaca while attending graduate school in Syracuse. I had the remarkable, good fortune to be in the company of Jennie, Alice Cook, Connie Cook and several other distinguished Ithaca women as we worked on developing the Ithaca chapter of N.O.W. I was so impressed that Jennie listened as closely and with the same interest to my thoughts and comments as she did to the other older, wiser and far more accomplished women in the group. Jennie's kindness, respect and thoughtful responses extended to all the women involved in the NOW endeavor without regard for age, race or social status. She embodied the ideals of "sisterhood" with unwavering fortitude. She had a remarkable ability to remain graceful, charming and humorous in the midst of our regular and frequent, rollicking disagreements, a hallmark of those early NOW meetings. (As I recall, we debated the political correctness of EVERYTHING in those days!) Unfortunately for me, my path did not often cross Jennie's over the last 18 or 20 years. However, when I did happen to see her at an Ithaca or Cornell "event" Jennie was always considerate enough to remember my face and name from that time long ago, a wonderful feat given all the people, meetings and causes she was involved with during the intervening years. I came across this quote by Mark Helprin from *A Soldier of the Great War*: "The world is a quiet place...its images forever fixed. They do not vanish. They can be remembered, and they can be foreseen. Nothing and no one are lost." Jennie Farley is one of those individuals who is "forever fixed and remembered" by me for the marvelous, compassionate qualities she embraced and lived out with everyone she met and the

gentle, feminist courage that served her, and all of us, so long and well. I am so grateful to have known and worked with Jennie. Though our time together was brief, the impression she made is lasting. Thank you, Jennie.

- Jan Smith, Big Flats, NY Oct 16 2002

She IS simply impressive! I would never use the past tense because the impression will stay alive, in me! It will live with me for as long as I do. I won't miss her because I will take her with me. The most remarkable thing about Prof. Farley is her spirit. I am so lucky to have been able to touch it and get my share of the wisdom and the goodness that have endlessly emanated from her. I am simply lucky that our roads crossed and I got to meet such an incredible woman. With tear and smile, from one of her grateful students.

- Dessy Gruncharova, Sofia, Bulgaria Oct 16 2002

I was in Professor Farley's freshman colloquium and I remember going home after that first one and calling my parents all the way in the Middle East and telling them all about this wonderful professor I had. I was truly blessed to have her as a professor and as an adviser. When I told her that I was finding it real tough at the ILR school and thinking of transferring she laughed and said, "you can't quit everytime it gets too hard". I listened and graduated this May and I only wish she'd been there so I could thank her for getting me there. My thoughts and prayers are with her family and loved ones. Jennie Farley was really special and I'm going to miss her very much.

- nandini vohra ILR'02, Dubai, U.A.E. Oct 17 2002

Out of all of the many wonderful teachers that I have had throughout my education, Jennie Farley had the greatest impact on me because she taught me that I could do anything that I wanted to do so long as I set my mind to it. I took both Jennie's writing class and Women at Work (I still have "Women At Cornell" on my bookshelf). I was lucky to have spent the Summer of 1993 researching for Jennie. It was during that Summer that I really got to know her. She would meet me for breakfast at Trillium either once or twice a week during that summer. The original purpose of our breakfasts was so that I could update her on my research. However, as time went on, we began to talk less and less about the research and more about us. She would share with me stories of when she went to Cornell. She would ask me questions about my experience at Cornell as well as my future goals and dreams. To this day, I still think about the advice (more about life than career) that Jennie gave me. Her confidence in me helped me achieve my goal of becoming a lawyer. I also think about her zest for life and love for her work, which I only hoped I too could have. It was at one of those Summer breakfasts at Trillium where Jennie told me that I reminded her of herself when she was at Cornell. I don't think there can be a better compliment. I will miss her very much. She will always remain in my heart.

- Erika Ozer, ILR 1994, New York City Oct 21 2002

Dear Jennie, We should have suspected your love for Phyllis McGinley's poetry, for you have been the great practitioner of "give a stone before advice," the most useful advice ever offered to those whose responsibilities include advising others. 15 minutes of conversation with you was enough to build the trust that links best friends. Yours is a very close, quick and keen-sighted study; you listen, consider, and reply with helpful directness, never glossing over difficulties. When a young friend asked you about her new boss, you forwarded that infant relationship by citing your admiration for the way that person had handled a very difficult time in her professional life. So we learned the better ways of womanly exchange of information. You shared all the fun you found in life, and helped everyone around you find the fun in the moment. You enrich us all still, and we miss you. Love, Marilyn

- Marilyn Williams, Ithaca, N.Y. Dec 21 2002

I took several classes with Prof. Farley and never have I met someone so willing to discuss every point of view and to give an ear to every voice. She will remain one of my best memories of Cornell.

- Dan Rothman, Bronx, NY Dec 22 2002

I'm a Cornellian, class of 1950, who became a lawyer, feminist leader, author and public speaker. In 2000, Jennie invited me to speak to two of her classes at the ILR school, one of which was using my memoir, "Eat First--You Don't Know What They'll Give You, The Adventures of an Immigrant Family and Their Feminist Daughter" as a textbook. It was one of the thrills of my lifetime to return to Cornell under those circumstances in the year of the 50th anniversary of my graduation. Jennie did that for me. Her passing is a personal loss to me and a loss to Cornell, the women's movement, and the country.

- Sonia Pressman Fuentes, Potomac, MD Dec 31 2002

my condolences, this is truly a great loss to the ILR community

- S. Scott, San Diego Feb 3 2003

I fondly remember Professor Farley. I took a couple courses with her that focused on women in the workplace. She was inspirational, strong, and caring. ILR has lost a true scholar.

- Kerri Scheppke Kovac, Plainview, NY Feb 7 2003

To read through the wonderful and deeply sincere tributes to Jennie Farley's life is to see why she was such a beloved figure at the ILR School. I never had the pleasure of having Jennie as a professor. Nevertheless, she was truly one of the sweetest people I had the pleasure of meeting while at Cornell. Her endearing smile and kind spirit will be missed. My deepest sympathies to each and every Farley family member and friend.

- Kevin Gamble, Fort Collins, CO Mar 2 2003

Professor Farley did not only have a passion for helping students in their academic pursuits, but also took an interest in the lives of her students. When I went for extra help in writing an essay, the first questions were about who I was, my life experiences and what I wanted to achieve. In a time when class sizes could be 300-400 people, she created relationships with her students, making them feel like people instead of numbers.

- Paul Gelb, New York City Mar 7 2003

At first I thought I had nothing to say about Jennie Farley since I had never met her, or heard about her until now, since I graduated in 1948, before Jennie was on campus. But then I started to read through the dozens and dozens of tributes. I slowly began to know her through the eyes of others.. As a retired college counselor I can appreciate Jennie's amazing ability to communicate, empathize and encourage her students. This is a great gift. I wish I had known her too.

- Helen Kleinberg, New York City Mar 10 2003

My last semester at the ILR School (1977) I took Prof. Farley's course on contemporary issues facing women in the workplace. Prof. Farley and I disagreed on a wide range of issues presented during the course (I had spent 14 years in the workforce prior to Cornell). We had a number of spirited discussions that I found as intellectually stimulating as any I experienced during my time at Cornell. To this day I treasure those discussions and view each of them as a 3 credit course. Prof. Farley taught beyond the coursework. God bless her.

- George Markovitch, Michigan Mar 13 2003

I took 2 courses with Prof. Farley. She was an amazing presence in the classroom--encouraging dialogue and gently bringing out different views and opinions. Always present with a smile, she led us with grace, wisdom and laughter. The very essence of the perfect teacher. She motivated, questioned, rewarded and respected us. We are all better for it. We will all miss her.

- Scott Irgang, Pleasantville, NY Apr 24 2003

I'll always remember Professor Farley's enthusiasm and compassion from her writing seminar. God bless.

- Michael Moschella, Whitman, MA May 14 2003

I had the honor of knowing Prof. Farley when I was attending the MILR program. As part of my fellowship, I worked at a desk at the end of the hallway, near her office. We talked many times in the two years that I was in the program and I can say that those conversations brightened each of those days. She will be sadly missed, but cherished for all of the wonderful things she did for this world.

- Chad Apaliski, Pittsburgh, PA May 21 2003

I only met Jenny Farley once. The occasion was my Great Aunt's (Fatanitza "Nitza" Schmitt) memorial where I was the only family representative. Of the people I met that day, Jenny was THE memorable one. She spoke fondly of my Aunt's skills and abilities as the Editor of Campus Publications. Her kind words helped me to understand my Aunt's personality and life before her lapse into dementia. I hope that the Farley family can rest peacefully in knowing how many lives Jenny touched through her championship of women's rights and her skills as an educator. Shalome

- Steve Morgan, Grand Island, NY Oct 26 2003

Jennie was my grandma and she dies when i was 9..i have many memories of her being a very very generous person. Her love for her family and friends (and beanie babies) was forever unconditional. Today is her birthday... she would have been 73 years old! I remember every christmas she would love to watch the dear and hand out as many presents as posible. After each christmas she would start shopping immediately! Every Christmas she would give 10 times more than receive. That's why to this day she has been an inspiration in my life. My parents say i get my smarts from her. And someday i hope to go to cornell university just like the rest of my family. My grandma grandpa, my uncle peter my aunt anne and uncle peter, my mom claire, my dad doug and hopefully my name will be added to that list. I LOVE YOU GRANDMA!! I KNOW YOUR WATCHING OVER ME RIGHT NOW!! :) - Your Beloved Granddaughter

- Jennie Lynn Farley Wright, Phoenix, Arizona Nov 2 2005